

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDE-00 /083 W

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O P 050955Z JUNE 75

FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1008

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0253

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON JUNE  
3, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JUNE 3 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE  
VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN  
REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS  
KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK AND GDR  
REP OESER. THE MAIN DEVELOPMENT WAS A HEAVY RE-EMPHASIS  
BY THE EAST ON THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD  
BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE  
QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS  
WOULD INDIVIDUALLY COMMIT THEMSELVES IN A PHASE II  
REPEAT PHASE II AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES BY A  
SPECIFIED AMOUNT. ALLIED REPS SAID EASTERN QUESTIONS

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CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF PHASE II OBLIGATIONS WERE PREMATURE, AND THAT WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD UNDERTAKE ONLY THOSE OBLIGATIONS IN PHASE II COMPATIBLE WITH THE IDEA OF A COLLECTIVE CEILING. KHESTOV AND EASTERN REPS STATED THAT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH WESTERN RESPONSES AND CLAIMED WESTERN RESPONSES REPRESENTED WESTERN BACK-TRACKING FROM EARLIER WESTERN STATEMENTS ON PHASE II.

2. REFERRING TO DISCUSSION IN LAST INFORMAL, FRG BEGAN BY EXPLAINING WHY IT WAS WHOLLY JUSTIFIED FOR WEST TO INFORM EAST OF WESTERN EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF AGREEMENTS AND THAT SUCH ACTION WAS A NECESSARY PART OF A SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT. POLISH REP ONCE AGAIN CLAIMED THAT FOCUS ON POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF AGREEMENTS WOULD TAKE NEGOTIATIONS FAR AFIELD. HE REVERTED TO ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, ASKING WESTERN REPS WHETHER EACH NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANT WOULD UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS ON THE AMOUNT OF ITS REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. ALLIED REPS SAID THEY WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY OBLIGATIONS IN PHASE II WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CEILINGS, AS

PUSHED BY THE EAST.

3. AFTER ALLIED REPS HAD PRESSED HIM ON NATIONAL CEILINGS KHESTOV STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THERE WAS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE AND OBLIGATIONS TO MAINTAIN A RESIDUAL LEVEL, THEY WERE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. KHESTOV SAID THAT, GRANTING FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARGUMENT THAT, AS THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES INSISTED, THERE WOULD BE COLLECTIVE CEILING FOLLOWING PHASE II REDUCTIONS, WOULD EACH OF THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE A COMMITMENT IN PHASE II TO REDUCE ITS FORCES BY A SPECIFIC AMOUNT? WHEN HE DID NOT RECEIVE AN AFFIRMATIVE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, KHESTOV AND OTHER EASTERN REPS CLAIMED WESTERN REPS HAD BACKED AWAY FROM EARLIER WESTERN STATEMENTS INDICATING THAT, ALTHOUGH, NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

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ABOUT REDUCTION OF THEIR FORCES IN CONNECTION WITH A PHASE I AGREEMENT, THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO IN PHASE II.

4. COMMENT: PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY FRG' REPS REPEATED STATEMENTS, WHICH WENT BEYOND AGREED NATO POSITION, TO EFFECT THAT ONLY ALLIED REDUCTION COMMITMENT IN PHASE II

WOULD BE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO REDUCE 48,000 MEN.  
EASTERN REPS PRESSED THEIR POINT WITH INCREASING VIGOR  
DURING THE SESSION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY CONSIDER  
THEY HAVE DISCOVERED A WEAKNESS IN THE ALLIED POSITION ON  
PHASING AND THAT THEY WILL PRESS THIS ISSUE HARD IN  
THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. UK REP WILL REPORT ISSUE TO COUNCIL  
JUNE 6 SURING AD HOC GROUP PERIODIC REPORT AND AD HOC  
GROUP WILL SUBMIT FORMAL REQUEST TO COUNCIL FOR GUIDANCE.  
END COMMENT.RESOR

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